The Jewish Gaily

FORWARD

SAN FRANCISCO

CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV

290 Dolores Street, San Francisco, CA 94103-2262

שער זהב

Adar I - Adar II 5763

March 2003

Purim Carnival

Saturday, March 15 immediately after Kadimah in the Oneg room

Come one, come all to the fabulous Madcap Purim shpiel.

Kadimah will be hosting its annual fun-filled carnival featuring music, games and booths, prizes and costumes, and of course lots and lots of laughs! Dress as your favorite Purim character and bring along your favorite ugly chotchke for the crazy raffle. Questions and concerns? Call Caryn Aviv (415/353-7037).

Purim 5763

Megillah Reading and Children's Costume Contest, Monday, March 17, 6 pm

Join us for a family megillah reading at 6 pm on Monday, March 17 at CSZ, followed by a Purim shpiel and fun! Come in costume, as there will be a costume contest for children and a later one for adults. This is also a chance nosh and shmooze with friends, family and fellow CSZers, all in the spirit of Purim. Be fierce, be fabulous, be in costume and most important, be at CSZ for this event! To volunteer, please contact Melanie Kushnir (x305 or mkushnir@shaarzahav.org).

Kadimah-Led Services

Saturday, March 1, 10 am

The amazing students of Kadimah will be leading Saturday morning Shabbat services on March 1. Join us for a wonderful morning filled with song and learning. Each Kadimah class will lead a part of the service. This is always a wonderful opportunity to see our students in action.

Invite Friends and Join us for Shabbat Across America

Co-sponsored by Jewish Family and Children's Services and the LGBT Alliance of the Jewish Community Federation

Join Congregation Sha'ar Zahav on Friday, March 7 for a pre-services catered dinner at 6 pm, services at 7:30 pm and an "18 Ways to Explore Your LGBT Jewish Identity" panel discussion after services. A special gift will be iven to every member who brings a friend. Cost for the dinner is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children. RSVP to Alison Gilbert (ext. 316) by March 4. Take the enclosed postcard and pass it on to a friend.

Music in the Mishkan

Silenced Voices-Music of the Holocaust

On Sunday, March 23 at 4 pm, Music in the Mishkan will present an extraordinary event at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. entitled Silenced Voices-Music of the Holocaust. This concert is a multi-media presentation that explores the uses and abuses of Jewish music and the arts in Europe during the Third Reich. Although Silenced Voices is about a serious subject, it is not morose or depressing. Quite the contrary. It is filled with humor, drama, compassion, hope and tons of gorgeous music.

The first part of the program incorporates a short lecture with video and slides, detailing specific musical and artistic activities in the ghettoes and concentration camps (especially Terezin and Auschwitz), against a backdrop of the Nazi rise to power. Presenting this extraordinary material will be Dr. Susan Eischeid, Professor of Oboe at Valdosta

State University. Concurrent with her oboe career, Dr. Eischeid has promoted the fight against racism through the medium of music, performing Holocaust compositions throughout the U.S.

In the second part of the program, Dr. Eischeid will pick up her oboe and be joined by CSZ member Ruth Rainero, soprano, CSZ member Randy Weiss, violinist, and Valdosta State Piano Professor Lyle Indergaard. They will perform a concert of dazzling richness and diversity, consisting of music written by Jewish composers in the ghettoes and camps of WWII.

The concert will include Pavel Haas's dramatic *Suite* for oboe and piano, three anonymous piano pieces written in Warsaw and discovered in Auschwitz, and the West Coast premiere of a shortened version of Viktor Ullmann's opera, *Der continued on page 4*

Re/Turning to Judaism

A Panel Discussion presented by the Sha'ar Zahav Outreach Group Wednesday, March 12, 7 pm

The Talmud tells us that a person's feet are their guarantors. They will take you wherever you are meant to be. For many of us, our feet have either turned us toward Judaism or returned us to our roots. At Sha'ar Zahav, we take pride in the diversity of our membership. The different paths many of us have traveled to reach Sha'ar Zahav give rise to wonderful stories. This panel and community discussion will present opportunities – whether we have made our own re/turn to Judaism or have an unbroken Jewish bond – to share this history.

We will talk about the reasons people who chose Judaism were drawn to this religion,

why those who fell away from the tradition of their birth have made a return, and what brought us all together at Mishkan Dolores. We hope to hear how Sha'ar Zahav has both changed that Jewish experience and inspired plans to deepen the connection. Come share your own history or have your lives enriched by hearing the stories of other members of this congregation.

Regardless of your own background, whether you've made a re/turning to Judaism or have a lifelong religious connection, please join us for an evening of discussion and discovery.



From the Rabbi's Study

In mid-January, I attended the fourday International Women's Rabbinic Network Conference

held in London. Our program lived up to its theme, "Bridging The Atlantic —Sharing our Pasts and Supporting Our Futures." This was the first WRN conference held outside the United States, demonstrating the growing number and significance of female rabbis around the world. The 100 women who gathered came from the United States, the United Kingdom, Holland, Germany, Hungary, the former Soviet Union and Israel. We prayed in Hebrew and English and our Monday morning Torah service included six more languages.

Our opening plenary session, delivered by Dr. Rabbi Sybil Sheridan, was entitled "Regina Jonas and Lily Montagu: Two Lost Role Models." I learned about these two remarkable women who helped revitalize Judaism in their respective cultures and communities. Each was a pioneer in the struggle towards female leadership roles within Judaism.

I will save the stories about Regina Jonas for another time. But Lady Lily Montagu had quite an impact on my own ambitions; she was a household name. You see, my father, *alav hashalom*, upon his ordination in 1934 was sent to work for Lily Montagu, Claude Montefiore and Sir Basil Henriques in an effort to advance the cause of Liberal Judaism. He served as rabbi at the St. George Settlement in the East End of London where he had daily conversations with Montagu about all sorts of matters. My father's early sermons reflect her ideas and her prophetic passion.

Here is a brief version of Lady Montagu's story. Because many of the poor Jews in the East End had to work on Shabbat mornings, and so were losing their connection with their faith, Montagu approached the members of an East End synagogue to see if she might hold Saturday afternoon services to attract those people and make sure they had some kind of Jewish education. They refused, so in 1902, she set up the Jewish Religious

Union, the precursor of the Liberal Movement. Lily Montagu was never ordained and she taught at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue as early as 1918.

Lily Montagu established a children's service which she led with great success for ten years, noting with some disapproval that it was not only children that came, but their mothers too, seeming to prefer her short, English prayers to the long service that preceded it. At the same time, her girls' club was run on religious lines, including prayers, Bible readings and instructions on the text she provided. She eventually established a Saturday afternoon service, which she led, for the girls whose work commitments made it impossible for them to attend synagogue in the morning. She wrote prayer books, essays on social themes and published two novels, which, though short on plot, are full of insight into the social issues of the day.

Her absolute conviction, her unstinting devotion to Liberal Judaism, her clearly charismatic personality as preacher and spiritual leader, distinguished Montagu and continued to set the stage for women to eventually become and be called rabbis.

Indeed, it would take 70 more years before the first woman rabbi, Sally Preisand, would be ordained. This year, at the end of March, Rabbi Janet Marder will become the first woman president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. For those of you who don't know Rabbi Marder, she has been a tremendous ally and agent for change in accepting LGBT Jews. She served at our Los Angeles sibling congregation, Beth Chayim Chadashim, as their first full-time rabbi. She brought honor and respect to the position, (which in those days even more so than now, was considered a mortal wound to one's rabbinic career). She is among the first women in the world to serve as senior rabbi in a congregation with over 1800 member units. She is a marvelous teacher and author of some of my all-time favorite sermons. I am inspired and hopeful that among her responsibilities, she will use her leadership over the next two years to take us all the way to economic equity and equal opportunity with our male counterparts.

From Montagu to Marder! L'dor v'dor! May we continue to grow in spirit and in strength.

Nominating Committee Begins Its Work

Each spring, during the annual congregational meeting, new members of the Va'ad are elected from a slate proposed by a nominating committee. The nominating committee is chosen by the president and approved by the Va'ad. The committee's responsibility is to find candidates whose demographics and diversity are representative of our community. Members who have served as chairs of committees or programs or have shown leadership skills and interest are usually thought of as possible candidates for this important service to our community.

The nominating committee will be recommending three individuals to serve as atlarge Va'ad members for a term of three years. They will be replacing retiring Va'ad members Howard Steiermann, Laura Lowe and Nancy Kates. In addition, our officers, with the exception of the president, who has a two-year term, are elected annually. Our current president, Lisa Katz, will go on to serve on the Va'ad in the ex-officio position reserved for immediate past presidents. We will be choosing a president, two vice presidents, a treasurer and a recorder.

The nominating committee for 2003 will be chaired by Andy Fyne and includes Sara Haber, Susan Tubbesing, Howard Steiermann, David Gellman and Carolyn Pines.

The Va'ad's responsibilities include policy making, financial management, personnel and strategic planning. Please contact any member of the committee to recommend someone you believe may be appropriate for this honor of service to the congregation.

RAC Report-Back

Join us on Friday, March 14 at Shabbat services to hear a report-back from the teens who attended this year's Religious Action Center conference. The teens who attended were Benjamin Achtenberg, Micah Barth-Rogers, Jonah Levy, Shmulik Fishman, Zach Miller, Jackie Mauro, Julia Becker, Ruby Cymrot-Wu, Emma Buchbinder, Annie Downs, Joshua Shuster-Lefkowitz and Sara Feinstein Shor. It was an amazing experience for everyone.



President's Column

by Lisa Katz

I am writing this column on the morning of February 1 as the news is first coming in about the space shuttle

Columbia's disintegration. At this time, our whole nation is coming together to mourn the passing of the seven astronauts on the space shuttle. These seven men and women, including the first Israeli astronaut to fly on the space shuttle and an Indian-born American woman, are strangers to most of us. Yet, as a nation, we put aside our political, ethnic, religious and other differences to mourn together the passing of these scientists who were working for the benefit of all humanity.

It is the exception, rather than the norm, for people in our country to come together despite our differences. As a synagogue we come together far more often to mourn losses, celebrate births and other simchas. When we come together we are ot coming together as strangers, but as a community. Whether we as members of this congregation have our entire social network at Sha'ar Zahav or only a few friends or acquaintances here, we are a Chevra Kedusha, a caring community.

This is the subject I really want to write about. As a congregation of people who care about one another, we come together frequently, not just in times of tragedy. We always have been, and hopefully always will be, a group of people who have vastly different opinions about a very wide variety of subjects. Those difference help to create the vibrancy and diversity of this congregation. It is one of our greatest strengths.

As our congregation grows and changes, there are more and more occasions for us to disagree. Whether the issue is the manner in which we recognize contributors of both time and money to the congregation or what color we should paint the Oneg room – everyone has an opinion. For come, those opinions may hold a central place in our feelings about CSZ. For others, the opinion is held fleetingly and forgotten. It is important that the leadership of the congregation recognize when our

members' thoughts, feelings and opinions are of central value to them and respond in an appropriate manner. It is equally important that all members of the congregation, whether or not we hold leadership positions, recognize that words matter. That, while we may disagree with one another, it is important that we express that disagreement in a respectful manner.

In the words of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, loosely quoted: "(T)he words of a human being can rise to a spiritual level and can teach more than merely the meaning of the words. Whenever people realize that our words are made of sounds, the sounds are made of breath, and the breath is ultimately made of the life force, the soul that God has placed within us, then we connect our words with God."

Third Friday Dinner — A Chance to Meet Other CSZ Members Before Services

Join us on March 21 for our monthly Third Friday Night Dinner. This month we will be at Lalo's (Mexican food) at 2247 Market Street near 15th. Please RSVP to the office by Thursday, March 20.

Everyone – new members, long-time members and guests are all welcome! Join us and get into the spirit of Shabbat before services. Meet us at 5:50 at the restaurant so we can order promptly at 6 pm. We will walk back to the synagogue in time for 7:30 services. This "pay-your-own-way" meal generally runs about \$15. This month's dinner will be hosted by Tony Harris.

For more information, please call the synagogue office or contact Tony (415/552-1882 or tony_harris@stanfordalumni.org).

Music in the Sanctuary

There has been a noticeable upgrade in the musical quality of our services since the arrival of a beautiful Hazelton baby grand piano. José Luis Moscovich donated the piano in memory of his grandparents, Ana and Markus Heitner and Teresa and José Moscovich. With so many talented musicians in the congregation, we have had many opportunities to add piano accompaniment to services. We are all very grateful to José Luis for his generosity.

Get Out Your Hammers...

It's Rebuilding Together time again. CSZ will be continuing our tradition of participating in Rebuilding Together, San Francisco's annual workday on Sunday, April 27. Our team will work together with teams throughout the city and with thousands of other teams across the country, to provide repairs and improvements for low-income homeowners or non-profits. In addition to being an important avenue for social activism, the day is also fun, community-building and very gratifying. As a past participant put it, "It's a rare opportunity to see immediate, dramatic and tangible results of your efforts." All you need to participate is a willing spirit. Much of the work is not physically challenging and no construction experience is needed. If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please contact Rachel or Lele Field (415/454.7377 or lelerachel@lelerachel.com).

A final note: In years past there has been interest from parents who would like to participate as a family with their children. The general rule has been that, due to safety considerations, Rebuilding Together SF is not able to invite people under 13 to participate. Please get in touch with Rachel and Lele if you have questions or concerns about this.

Building and Grounds Committee Needs You

- Do you have a tool fetish?
- Or maybe you just like to rub elbows with those butch people who do?
- Are you well acquainted with the secret life of household plumbing?
- Perhaps you are a dedicated "This Old House" viewer?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, the Building and Grounds Committee wants you.

We make decisions regarding the nuts and bolts of the building, pursue bids for improvements and our meetings often last only an hour. There is no advance commitment required; come to the next meeting and find out if this is the right mitz-vah for you. Contact Beth Sousa (evanesh@earthlink.net)

Help Create a CSZ Presence at Women's Seder

CSZ member Leslie Kane is trying to organize a table of CSZers for the Fourth Annual Community Women's Seder. This year's seder, themed "Refilling the Well – Refueling the Flame," will be on April 7 at the Palace of Fine Arts. The seder, sponsored by the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco and the San Francisco Women's Alliance of the Jewish Community Federation will again be lead by Rabbi Sydney Mintz and song leader Marsha Attie.

Legend tells of Miriam and a mysterious well filled with *Mayim Chayim* (living waters) that followed the Israelites

The Jewish Gaily Forward

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Members of the congregation receive the Forward as part of their membership. Nonmembers can receive a Forward subscription for \$36/year.

Note that articles reflect the opinions of their author and not necessarily those of the congregation or its committees.

Members of the Newsletter Committee:

- Chair and Editorial Coordinator Karen Schiller
- Editing/proofreading/layout: Judith Cohen, Marjorie Hilsenrad, Rose Katz, Batya Kalis, Geoff Jaeger-Skigen
- Advertising: Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net)
- Design and layout:
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 Nuts-n-Bolts Graphics dalejim@pacbell.net
- Printing: Genesis Printing & Graphics
- Distribution: Mail It Right

Display ads are \$15 per column inch with discounts available for frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each additional 10 words.

Payment must accompany ads and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, CA 94103, marked: Attention Forward Advertising. We reserve the right to reject any ad.

throughout their wandering in the desert. Miriam's well was said to hold divine power to heal and renew. Its fresh waters sustained our people as we journeyed from slavery to freedom.

A women's seder provides a unique opportunity to explore the many roles Jewish women have played and can play in our ongoing struggle for freedom. In telling the story of Passover in our own voices, in our own time, we can once again refill ourselves with Miriam's sustaining waters, and rekindle within ourselves the passion to make a difference on our journey.

For more information about the CSZ table, contact Leslie Kane (lkanesf@hotmail.com). For more information about the seder, contact the San Francisco JCC (415/346-6040).

Passover Seder Matching

Do you have some extra space at your first night seder? Are you looking for a first night seder to attend? Please contact Melanie Kushnir (x 305) if you would like to be matched for a seder. It is a mitz-vah to welcome people into your home on Passover!

Music in the Mishkan

continued from page 1

Kaiser von Atlantis (The Emperor of Atlantis). Even those who claim to dislike opera will want to hear this 10-minute arrangement. The opera, written in Terezin in 1943, is a satire of Hitler's claim to power. It was rehearsed briefly, but abruptly halted when the Nazis figured out its hidden meaning.

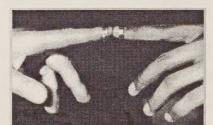
Randy Weiss, who is well acquainted with Dr. Eischeid and her work, promises a fascinating and powerful afternoon of music and words.

For tickets, contact CSZ Program Director Melanie Kushnir (ext. 305 or mkushnir@shaarzahav.org). Remember to join the musicians after the concert for wine and shmoozing in the Oneg Room.

Celebrate Pride 2003

It's already time to start planning for Pride! We are looking for some CSZ-inspired ideas and volunteers for the parade. If you would like to volunteer your time and creative energy to make Sha'ar Zahav visible and vibrant at this year's festivities, please contact Melanie Kushnir (x305 or mkushnir@shaarzahav.org).

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Children and Family Corner

Tot Shabbat Saturday

March 29, 10:30 am - noon

Come celebrate Shabbat with your tot. Bring your two- to five-year-olds for singing, prayer, storytelling, crafts, and family Jewish fun with Sandra Menachem, Early Childhood Education Specialist.

Younger siblings and non-members are welcome. Tot Shabbat meets the last Saturday of the month.

Baby Chavurah

Sunday, March 9, 10 am - noon at the home of Janet Klein and Lisa DiGirolamo Sunday, March 30, 10 am - noon at CSZ

Bring those under twos out to play, sing and commune with like-minded babes and their parents. Join us for potluck brunch, playtime and socializing. Please bring your baby and a vegetarian dish to share. Older siblings are welcome, as are non-members. Baby Chavurah meets every three weeks.

Rabbi Angel's Recommended Readings

Some classic works of Jewish fiction: Chaim Potok

The Chosen. Fawcett Books.

Isaac Bashevis Singer Stories for Children. Sunburst.

Milton Steinberg

As a Driven Leaf. Behrman House.

Shop at the CSZ Gift Shop. It's an easy way to make a contribution to our synagogue.

Family Shabbat Dinner

Friday, March 7, 6 pm

Please join us for a vegetarian pot-luck. Welcome Shabbat with community, blessings, food and song. Then continue your Shabbat experience at 7:30 pm services. If your last name begins with A-G, please bring a main dish; H-N, please bring a side dish (salad or fruit); O-T, please bring drinks; U-Z, please bring a dessert

Prepared foods, frozen foods, take-out and other easy food options are welcome. No RSVP is required. Bring friends, family and kids of all ages.

Contact Alison Gilbert, Membership Assistant (x 316 or alisongilb@shaarzahav.org) for more information about any of these programs or to RSVP.

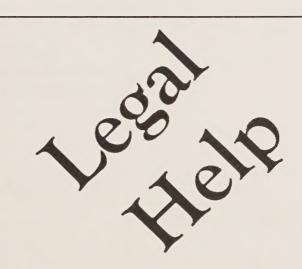
There is NO KADIMAH on Wednesday, March 19

Kadimah Teacher of the Month: Micah Morris

Micah Morris is a second-year Kadimah teacher. Micah is completing his undergraduate studies at SFSU in English Literature and Classics and is currently applying to doctoral programs to continue his studies in the Humanities in the coming year. Micah also teaches in the Jewish teen program at Berkeley Midrashah.

Micah teaches our Kitah Dalet (4th/5th grade) on Saturday mornings. Micah brings to the class a real enthusiasm for the core curriculum, Jewish multiculturalism and his love and talent for cooking – a perfect match. Micah is interested in broadening students' understanding of who Jews are and helping them to embrace the diversity of our cultures and traditions. *Kol Ha'kavod!* All honor to you!

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April Deadline: Monday, March 3, 5pm

Articles

Advertising

Please submit your articles as a Word atachment via email to: kschiller@igc.org. *No late submissions will be accepted.*

To place a display ad, contact Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net). To place a classified ad, call the office.

Sunday	Mond	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday	
2 Adar I	- 28 3	Adar I - 29	4	Adar I - 30	5	Adar II - 1	
4 pm Healing Service	7 pm	Beit Midrash	6:30 pm	Prayerbook Hebrew II	4 pm 7 pm 7 pm 7:30 p	Midweek Kadimah JGF meeting Women of Exodus m B'nai Mitzvah class	
9 Adar I	-5 10	Adar II - 6	11	Adar II - 7	12	Adar II - 8	
10 am Baby Chavurah 7 pm JGF layout			6:30 pm	Prayerbook Hebrew II	7 pm	Midweek Kadimah Re/Turning to Judaisn m B'nei Mitzvah class	
16 Adar II	- 12 17	Adar II - 13	18	Adar II - 14	19	Adar II - 15	
		Erev Purim 6 pm Megillah Reading and Costume Contest		Purim 6:30 pm Prayerbook Hebrew II		No Midweek Kadimah	
23 Adar II	- 19 24	Adar II - 20	25	Adar II - 21	26	Adar II - 22	
4 pm Music in the Mish	kan		6:30 pm	Prayerbook Hebrew II	4 pm	Midweek Kadimah	
30 Adar II	- 26 31	Adar II - 27			L		
10 am Baby Chavurah	6:30 pm	CEB					

Adar I - Adar II 5763

Do You Have	Saturday		
Naches (1	Adar I - 27	
We'd love to Please contact give us your	9 am 9:30 am 10 am	Torah Study Kadimah Shabbat Services	
Thursday	Friday		
6 Adar II - 2	7 Adar II - 3	8	Adar II - 4
	Shabbat Across America 6 pm Family Dinner 7:30 pm Shabbat Services led by Sarita Groisser and Nicole Bloom	9 am 9:30 am 10 am	Torah Study Kadimah Shabbat Services
13 Adar II - 9	14 Adar II - 10	15	Adar II - 11
6:30 pm Va'ad Meeting	1 pm Tenderloin Lunch 7:30 pm Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel and students who travelled to D.C.	9 am 9:30 am 10 am 11 am	Torah Study Kadimah Shabbat Services Purim Festival
20 Adar II - 16	21 Adar II - 17	22	Adar II - 18
6:30 pm Israel Committee	6 pm Membership Dinner 7:30 pm Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel and Dan Bellm	9 am 9:30 am 10 am	Torah Study Kadimah Shabbat Services
27 Adar II - 23	28 Adar II - 24	29	Adar II - 25
6:30 pm Ritual Committee	7:30 pm Shabbat Services	9 am 9:30 am 10 am 10:30 am	Torah Study Kadimah Shabbat Services Tot Shabbat



Social Action Connection

by Susan Lubeck

Participation Update

We had an enjoyable and interesting meeting on January 27. Many thanks to Red Bennett, Prudence Carter, Jim Frazin, Susan Mizner, Jeff Piade, Sharyn Saslafsky, Naomi Szoke and Andrew Zunser who contributed ideas during the meeting and commitments beyond the meeting. We now have 25 people pledging and/or actively engaged.

If you missed it, your next chance to shmooze and eat pizza with us won't come around until April (we agreed to meet quarterly), but there are lots of opportunities to get involved, even without coming to one of our fabulous meetings.

Opportunities to Join Your Community in Tikkun Olam

 Rehabbing a home or nonprofit facility with Rebuilding Together on Sunday, April 27. See article on page 3 for more information.

- Planning and hosting a retrospective and dialogue on 25 years of activism in the LGBT movement in conjunction with CSZ's 25th anniversary. Contact AJ Turpen (ajsparkles@mac.com, 415/437-6869 before 9 pm).
- Having dinner with homeless neighbors, Wednesdays at Most Holy Redeemer (in the Castro), any time from 4 to 9 pm. Contact Jay Davidson (teacher@jaydavidson.com, 415/861-2444).
- Help us plan our next social actionthemed Shabbat service. Contact Susan Lubeck (susanlubeck@aol.com, 510/531-7660 before 9:30 pm).
- Serving a Shabbat lunch in the Tenderloin on March 14. Contact Allan Berenstein (SFDaytimer@aol.com).

More Ideas for Tikkun Olam?

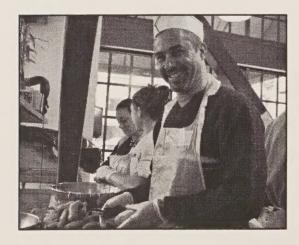
Contact one of the co-chairs, or Melanie in the office (x 305). In areas where there's even a small core of people willing to provide sustained energy, we are happy

to help you network with others, and join and support your efforts. Interested in working on queer marriage rights? Senior housing for LGBT folk? Interfaith advocacy work on economic issues? If so, we can hook you up with others.

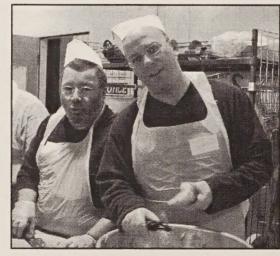
What is the Tenderloin Lunch, Anyway?

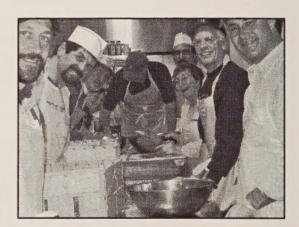
For the last four years, CSZ and Jewish Family and Children's Services have cosponsored a semi-annual lunch. The guests are a very diverse group. Most are seniors. Most live in the Tenderloin. Perhaps half are Jewish. It is a major social outlet for many of them. They look forward to a free Shabbat meal and shmoozing. The food is good and so is the atmosphere. Volunteers serve the meals and visit with folks. Allan Berenstein, CSZ Social Action Chair Emeritus, is one of the core JFCS volunteers and is wellequipped to show new volunteers the ropes. We appreciate Allen's long-term involvement in this effort!

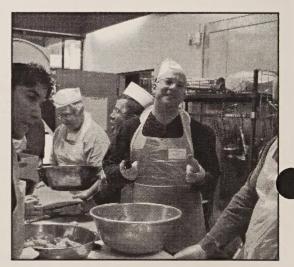
CSZ Supports Project Open Hand



On December 24 and 25, members of CSZ worked at Project Open Hand so that regular volunteers could be off for the holidays.







Volunteer Recognition

So many tasks at Sha'ar Zahav are handled by volunteers who give freely of their time. Their efforts greatly contribute to our ability to operate smoothly. This list is not comprehensive or complete, but it is a chance to express our thanks to:

Ilana Bernstein – for organizing Friday night childcare

Andrea Guerra - for being a teacher's assistant at Kadimah

Trudi Hauptman – for phoning the greeter corps to remind the week's greeters that they have signed up for

Ruth Rainero - for updating the cumulative index to Va'ad meetings.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new and returning members this month. A warm welcome to the most recent people to join our family:

> Tamhas Griffith Sari and Blake McConnell Julia and Lila Schulman Jeri Lynn Cohen and Julia Rose Kibben (Welcome back!)

We are grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

Please Be in Touch With Me

I am eager to be in touch with all members of the CSZ family whenever there are occasions of joy or sadness in your lives. When there is a death in the family, please call me as soon as possible. We very much want to be there with you at a time of grief.

Rabbi Camille Shira Angel

Synagogue Information

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

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Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav are ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office

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Baby Chavurah, by committee

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Bylaws, Richard Inlander

Children's Education Board, Ruthy Talansky

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Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign, Deborah Udin

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Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Jewish Organizations

Why Are These New Members Different From All Others?

Couples are always fun to interview because I enjoy seeing how they express their individuality and their spirituality. Listening to Steven Schey and Kirk McDonald, I admired their ability not to end each other's sentences. Respectful listening and support seemed to flow quite naturally from Kirk and Steven.

JGF: Of course my first curiosity is how did you meet, and then the serious question: were you raised traditional, non-traditional or secular?

Both respond at the same time: We met in New York.

Steven: I was born in New Jersey and raised Jewish. My father was on the board of the temple and my mother taught Hebrew for 30 years. Actually, my mother just retired recently from teaching. My grandparents were the pillars of strong traditional values and rituals.

Kirk: I was born at the old Saint Joseph's Hospital and was raised in South San Francisco. My father was a Rosicrucian and my mother was a classical humanist; both were very spiritual and philosophical in their approach to life. I grew up reading books, text, expanding and evolving the human mind. I read many Jewish works – Buber, Wiesel, for example. I am now exploring the formal process of conversion to Judaism.

Steven: My connection to Judaism went through its ups and downs. Sources of strength for me when I was growing up were my grandparents and the experience of two bar mitzvahs. The first one was in Israel at the Western Wall and the second one was back home in New Jersey. I learned two Torah portions and two Haftarah portions. The bar mitzvah in Israel was so emotionally moving that the experience stayed with me for a long time.

JGF: What drew you to CSZ?

Steven: I had been living in New York and kind of lost touch with my spirituality. My grandparents had passed away and some of that tradition was lost. Kirk helped me rediscover that side of myself. This past year my nephew was bar mitzvahed and somehow it brought me back to Judaism. When I saw my nephew, I felt my grandparents were there in the temple.



Kirk McDonald (left) and Steven Schey

It made me realize how important my spiritual side had been and how I had lost it. I was also very homesick for my family, and discovering CSZ somehow filled that void.

Kirk: My mother was an extraordinarily spiritual person, so it had always been part of my life. I don't remember how, but I had heard about CSZ and we attended the Open House and then decided to join. CSZ met spiritual needs for both of us. The community is warm and made us feel included immediately. We started attending every other Friday night and we got to know other members. When we don't attend on Friday we have Shabbat at home.

JGF: How does connecting with your spiritual sides contribute to your relationship?

Kirk: Having Shabbat at home allows us to leave behind our work week and take a moment to savor the rhythms of the week. In times of conflict we can step back and really look at the foundation of life, God, and recognize and appreciate that part of us.

Steve: I had been a lead artist at a design firm in NY, and here I have been working as a retail store manager. For me this renewed connection has sparked my desire to paint again. To realize that there is so much out there in life. The two big events in my life this past year have been going to my nephew's bar mitzvah and quitting smoking (seven months so far). Joining CSZ and coming back to Judaism seem all to be linked.

Kirk: As we grow older, spirituality encourages textual study and passion and we want to be members of this community and grow old together.

JGF: What advice would you give to new members?

Steven: CSZ may seem intimidating if you're shy like me. But it really hasn't been. Just "hang tough," be patient and you'll get to know people. Everyone has been wonderful. I brought my mother and she loved it!

Kirk: Get involved. I appreciated that Marianne Balin contacted me to join Kesher. There is a diversity of backgrounds; people are approachable and so willing to talk about their practice and their lives. Just get involved!

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From the Jewish Toolkit

On the Doorposts of Your House: M'zuzah

the Jewish Tool Kit is particularly excited to talk about m'zuzah, a mitzvah that actually involves tools of the hammer and nail variety (just wait until she gets to talk about building a sukkah!). Technically, m'zuzah is the Hebrew word for "doorpost," but it more commonly refers to a ritual object we affix to our doorposts. The m'zuzah is a small piece of parchment (in Hebrew, a klaf) upon which are written two passages from the Torah (D'varim/Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and 11:13-21) that instruct us thus: "These words which I command you today...write them on the doorposts (m'zuzot) of your house and upon your gates." These two passages also happen to be the first two paragraphs of the prayer we know as the Sh'ma. [A short digression: The Sh'ma consists of these two paragraphs from D'vrarim, followed by one from B'midbar/Numbers 15:37-41. The CSZ siddur includes only the first paragraph and the last two verses of the third. More on this another time.]

A kosher (fit for use) m'zuzah is written by hand, on an animalskin *klaf*, by a professional scribe. It is just like a teeny tiny sefer Torah, except that it contains only a small excerpt, which serves to remind us of the entire Torah every time we see it. The parchment is rolled up and placed inside a protective case made from wood, plastic or almost any material. M'zuzah cases are often fashioned as decorative works of art. Keep in mind, however, that the case is *not* the m'zuzah. A m'zuzah case without a

sher *klaf* inside is like a decorative frame without a picture. And what about the *photocopy* of a *klaf* that is often included when you buy a case? Compare that to a frame displaying the glossy "Everyday low prices at Wal-Mart" insert instead of a picture of your loved ones. Make no mistake, the Jewish Tool Kit has quite the flair for home décor and has absolutely no objection to Jewish-themed *objet d'art*. But when it comes to sacred ritual objects there is no substitute for authenticity. A kosher *klaf* can cost \$30 or \$40. In her own home the Jewish Tool Kit displays these pricey parchments in inexpensive, clear plastic cases, so she can see the part that really counts.

M'zuzot are affixed to the doorposts of every exterior and interior door in the house (except the bathroom) – but if you're starting with just one, put it on your front door. Before affixing a m'zuzah we recite the blessing *Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu*

melech ha-olam, asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav, vitzivanu lik-boah m'zuzah (Blessed are you Adonai...who has commanded us to affix a m'zuzah). The m'zuzah, in its case, is then nailed, screwed, glued or (JTK's current favorite) affixed with Velcro to the upper-third of the doorpost on the right side of door (as you face it), with the upper portion of the m'zuzah slanted inward. M'zuzot on our doorposts help remind us, in all our comings and our goings, of God's presence in the world and in our lives.

Interior design questions, comments about the Jewish Tool Kit or requests for topics to be covered can be sent to PirkeiAvot@att-global.net.

June Bride: A One-Woman Show by Sara Felder

directed by Jayne Wenger

Sunday April 6, 7 pm at the Marin Osher JCC \$20 CSZ members/\$24 public/\$12 students

Join your CSZ friends for an evening of fun as we attend our own Sara Felder's one-woman performance of *June Bride*. We can meet at CSZ and carpool together!

A tour-de-force of storytelling and juggling (literally!), the show chronicles Felder's preparation for her traditional Jewish and lesbian wedding. Family, tradition, breaking the glass, genderbending and acrobatic juggling are all thrown into this funny, poignant one-woman show.

Besides being a member of CSZ, Sara Felder is a Bay Area playwright, solo theater artist, juggling diva, monologist and humorist. She has performed with the San Francisco Pickle Family Circus, Joel Grey's Borscht Capades, Jugglers for Peace, the Klezmatics and at various Jewish cultural festivals. *June Bride* has toured internationally.

The show will be followed by a "Wedding Reception" with Sara Felder, complete with wedding cake and champagne.

Space is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please RSVP as soon as possible to Melanie Kushnir (x 305 or mkushnir@shaarzahav.org).



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- -in honor of James Carlson.
- -in honor of Barbara Rinkoff's Hebrew naming.

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-in memory of Sadye Newman.

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- -in memory of Marilyn O'Keeffe.
- -in memory of Alma Shuchat.
- -in memory of Yetta and Ben Shuchat.
- -in honor of Ron Lezell's 50th birthday.

Ellen Murland

-in honor of Barbara Rinkoff receiving her Hebrew name, Dorit Simcha.

Drew Parker-Rose.

Sam Thal

-in honor of Mike Rankin's birthday.

Kenny Altman

-in honor of Roslyn Fuerman and Fern Leaf.

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Aaron and Emma Buchbinder

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- -in memory of Jaime Kibben.
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Avraham Giannini

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-in honor of Joe Hample.

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-in memory of Lillian Leyer, Sarah Weinberger and Marion Behrens.

Alex Ingersoll and David Stein

- -in honor of Steve Marshall's entering into the covenant.
- -in honor of Pieter de Haan's entering into the covenant.

Alan Michels and Laureen Kim

-in honor of Alapai's becoming bar mitzvah.

Felicia Park-Rogers and Rachel Timoner.

Fund For The Future

Gerry Llamado

- -in honor of Rabbi Angel.
- -in honor of James Carlson.
- -in honor of Lisa Katz.

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-in honor of the marriage of Jerry Maynard and Patrick Barresi.

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In Honor of Benjamin Park-Rogers Timoner

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Walter Park.

Felicia Park-Rogers and Rachel Timoner.

RAC trip donation

Ruth Rainero

-in honor of CSZ madrichim

Pesach Subsidy

Jerry Rosenstein.

Condolences

Jeri Lynn Cohen, on the death of her husband, Jaime Kibben.

Lyssa Friedman and Daphne Stuart, on the death of their friend, Jaime Kibben.

David Stein, on the death of his aunt, Alma Shuchat.

Julia Bloomfield, on the death of her friend, Margaret Clark.

Batya Kalis, on the death of her friend, Margaret Clark.

David Gellman, on the death of his father, Edward Gellman.

Judy Macks, on the death of her friend and colleague, Jeanette Gurevitch.

Sharyn Saslafsky, on the death of her friend, Jeanette Gurevitch.

Roslyn Fuerman, on the death of her friend, Sharon Cornelison.

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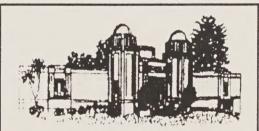
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- Jo-Ellen Kaiser 1 Arthur Slepian
- 2 Mark Franko
- 3 Shelley Adler
- 3 Ed Blaik
- 3 Howard Herman
- 3 Craig Shear
- 4 Randy Blaustein
- 5 Stephanie Godt
- 5 Elias Rose
- 5 Jordan Scott-Weiner
- 5 Nancy Wecker
- 6 Kevin Stein
- 7 Arlene Singer
- 8 Ann Biderman
- 8 **David Couch**
- 8 **Amy Cunninghis** 8 Ziggy Gimnicher
- 8 Phyllis Mintzer
- 9 Nancy Igdaloff
- 9 Dana Katz 10
- George Mintzer 10 Stephen Shotland
- 10 Dana Vinicoff
- 11 Jessie Ap'neva 11 Miranda Petrillo
- 12
- Jerome Geffner 12 Hershey Hirschkop
- 13 Michael Frank
- 13 Scott Rutherford
- 13
- Mary Schroeder 15 Jeffrey Davidson
- Falyn Sokol 15

16 Tracey Berliner

- 16 Geri Kahn
- 16 Jonathan Pannor
- 16 Alice Prussin
- 17 Larry Kaplun
- 17 Rami Kripke-Ludwig
- 17 Ian Sweedler
- 18 Ann Bauman
- 18 Garry Schermann
- 20 Carol Barnett
- 20 Kathryn McHenry
- 21 Mike Abramson
- 21 Jeffrey Shuman
- 22 Ezra Barth-Rogers
- 22 Talia Barth-Rogers
- 22 Ellen Novogrodsky
- 24 Lucy Bernholz
- 24 Rita Losch
- 24 Abigail Weissman
- 25 Hilda Bernstein
- 25 Randall Weiss
- 26 Lilah Rose Angel
- 26 Craig Persiko
- 27 Rebecca Doctors
- 27 Joanne Kapsack
- 27 Jacob Warsaw
- 28 Michael Hulton
- 28 Giovanni Raff
- 29 **Bob Gutterman**
- 29 Ira Hirschfield
- 29 Zoe Littauer
- 30 Tony Harris
- 31 Zola Crow Rosenfeld
- 31 Mia Crow Rosenfeld
- 31 Ryan Gruschka Powers

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1/17

Flowers sponsored by Alan Michels and Laureen Kim and Ron and Norma Kim in honor of Alapai's bar mitzvah.

Oneg sponsored by Andrea Guerra in honor of the naming of Benjamin Park-Rogers Timoner.

Childcare sponsored by Team CSZ in honor of the naming of Benjamin Park-Rogers Timoner.

1/18

Oneg sponsored by Alan Michels and Laureen Kim in honor of Alapai's bar mitzvah.

1/24

Flowers sponsored by Larry Wexler in memory of his grandmother Rosalie Siegel.

Oneg sponsored by Felicia Park-Rogers in honor of the naming of Benjamin Park-Rogers Timoner.

1/31

Flowers sponsored by Ron Edelman in memory of his grandmother Louise Seidler.

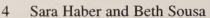
Oneg sponsored by Judith Holiber in memory of her mother Caryl L. Holiber.

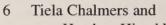
Childcare sponsored by Rachel Timoner's family in honor of the naming of Benjamin Park-Rogers Timoner.

Yahrzeits

- 7 Isabel Fishman
- 16 Ted Mendonca
- 20 Paul Nemrow
- Robert Coffman 20
- 26 Michael Lipson
- 28 Neill Rosen 31 Marvin Steele

Anniversaries

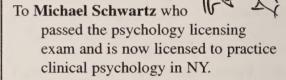




Hershev Hirschkop

- 11 Mark Oliver and Steven Polsky
- 15 Bernard Choden and Lois Scott
- 22 Andrew and Michelle Williamson
- 24 Geraldine Barr and Maxine Epstein
- 31 Jessie Ap'neva and Nina Wouk

Naches



To Felicia Park-Rogers and Rachel Timoner on the naming of their son, Benjamin.

To Alapai Kim Michels who became a bar mitzvah.

To Daniel Chesir on his election as President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations Pacific Central West Region.

To Sue Bojdak and Debra Yates on the birth of their son, Naftali Ilan Bojdak-Yates on February 5.

To Nancy Muller on being named volunteer of the month by Volunteer Legal Services Program of the Bar Association of San Francisco, for her work with the Welfare-to-Work Program.

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